

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1287 without my signature.

I support the author's efforts to strengthen family ties and break the cycle of incarceration. Unfortunately, I do not support the provisions of this bill that require the courts to provide a defendant with information regarding the potential impact of accepting a plea. These provisions could result in lengthy court hearings and increased costs. The worthy goal of ensuring defendants are advised of the collateral consequences of their decisions should not require the state to accept procedures that are overbroad and create a potential for criminal pleas to be overturned on a technicality. This procedure undermines the longstanding criminal justice policy which favors finality of judgment for the victims, the defendant, and the state. While I appreciate and understand the author's desire to provide a parent with more information, conviction of a crime has many consequences, most of which are not specifically outlined by the court when a plea is entered but is covered by attorneys prior to the proceedings.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger